

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, IT

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON DEFENSE COOPERATION
WITH ITALY

REF: ROME 5227

1. PACE OF THE MOU NEGOTIATIONS DEPENDS LARGELY UPON THE
GOI. WE ARE STILL AWAITING OFFICIAL COMMENT BY THE GOI
ON THE CURRENT DRAFT MOU WE PROVIDED IN JANUARY. AT
THAT TIME WE ALSO PROVIDED A COPY OF THE FINAL DRAFT MOU
THAT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE NORWEGIANS, SO THAT A
COMPARISON COULD BE MADE WITH BOTH THE UK AND NORWEGIAN
VERSIONS. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AS
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SOON AS WE RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL GOI RESPONSE.

2. THE PROPOSED MOU IS DESIGNED AS AN UMBRELLA DOCUMENT
TO FACILITATE MAXIMUM COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES
INVOLVED BY ESTABLISHING GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE AND
REMOVING BARRIERS WHERE POSSIBLE. MINOR CHANGES IN THE
CURRENT OVER THE PREVIOUS DRAFT DO NOT SIGNAL A LESSENING

OF THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE UPON THE MOU, BUT REPRESENT REFINEMENTS OF THE DRAFT RESULTING FROM OUR EFFORTS ON OTHER MOUS. THE CURRENT DRAFT DOES NOT DEPART SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE UK AND NORWAY VERSIONS.

3. REGARDING THE MATTER OF BALANCE, ARTICLE 1 STATES THAT "THE TWO GOVERNMENTS MUTUALLY AGREE TO WORK TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN AN EQUITABLE BALANCE IN THE RECIPROCAL PURCHASING OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT INCLUDING TECHNOLOGICAL PARTICIPATION CORRESPONDING TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVELS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES." THIS IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ITALY TO ENLARGE ITS MARKET IN THE US, BUT THE PURPOSE OF THE MOU NONETHELESS IS TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. ITALY WILL HAVE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY ITS PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS AS THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE. VANCE

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